Japanese Assistance for Rail Project

71. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan has offered financial assistance for three Rail Projects linked to Buddhist Pilgrimage Centres in India, if so, what are the Projects and what is the quantum of assistance offered; and

(b) whether any progress has been made in the talks in this respect during the meetings between Indian Officials and the Visiting Japanese Delegation led by Senator Narota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS): (a) and (b) A Japanese Delegation led by Senator Narota had held discussions in August' 90 with Indian Officials during which the following three projects were identified for possible financial assistance from the Government of Japan:

(1) Restoration of Chitauni-Bagaha rail link and construction of a rail-cum-road bridge over river Gandak.

(2) Procurement of rails and tunnelling machines required by Konkan Rail Project; and

(3) Construction of Pilgrim Ashrams at rail heads near places of Budhist interests.

The cost of these projects is Rs. 154.65 cr., Rs. 240 cr. & Rs. 8 cr. respectively. The discussions were followed up by a reference to the Japanese Prime Minister from the Minister of Railways. Later in December, 1990, further discussions with another member of the delegation, Reverend Uchida, were held and the Government of Japan was formally approached for financial asistance through the Ministry of Finance (DEA). in January, 1991, an identifying Mission from Japan held discussions with Indian Railway Officials and collected relevant information in respect of the above projects. The quantum of aid that may become available for these projects is yet to be decided by the Government of Japan.

Foreign exchange earnings from.. Tourism

72. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the accrual of foreign exchange under the head of tourism during the last three years; the number of tourists visiting India during the same time;

(b) whether Disney Land Project of Haryana is finally cleared; and

(c) whether it is a fact that thousands of farmers have opposed and demonstrated against this project, if so, what are their objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINGH): (a) The number of foreign tourists who visited India and the estimates of foreign exchange earnings from tourism du-